

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-3095

Granite African American Survey District

Baltimore County, MD

1860-1900ca.

Established in the early 19th century, the village of Granite is located near the Patapsco Falls near the western boundary with Howard County in the Second District of Baltimore County. The town of Granite was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The Granite Presbyterian Church was then organized in 1848. By 1850, Granite had developed significantly at the intersection of Granite Road and Old Court Road. The community grew out of the quarrying interests of the Worthington family, whom owned a significant amount of land in the surrounding area. The African American area is divided into two sections, Bunker's Hill and Melrose Avenue, also known as "the track." When Granite School #3 was built in 1878 the first school at the intersection of Hernwood and Old Court Roads became the first entirely African-American school in the community. Public School #22 operated until the 1950s when it closed. Some of the resident families during the 20th century included the Wilsons, Hodges, Griggs, Butlers, Buchanans, Lees, Lawrences, Bennetts, Walkers, and Porters.

The small African-American community is entirely comprised of single-family dwellings. Within the community of Granite are buildings used both by African-Americans and their Anglo-American neighbors, such as the Hernwood School (BA-2290) at 2803 Hernwood Road. The historic dwellings lining Old Court Road, Bunker's Hill Road, and Melrose Avenue predominantly date to the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Five rental homes are situated along Bunker Hill Road that were originally African-American dwellings.

Inventory No. BA-3095

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Granite African American Survey District

other

2. Location

street and number	Old Court Road, Melrose Avenue, Bunker Hill Road	not for publication
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city, town	Granite	vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Multiple Ownership
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street and number	telephone
Not Available	

city, town state zip code

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: tax map 86

city, town	Towson	liber	folio
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

<u>X</u>	Contributing Resource in National Register District
<u> </u>	Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
<u> </u>	Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
<u> </u>	Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
<u> </u>	Recorded by HABS/HAER
<u> </u>	Historic Structure Report or Research Report
<u> </u>	Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count		
						Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>X</u>	district	—	public	—	agriculture	—	—	landscape
—	building(s)	<u>X</u>	private	—	commerce/trade	—	<u>7</u>	recreation/culture
—	structure	—	both	—	defense	—	<u>5</u>	buildings
—	site			<u>X</u>	domestic	—	—	sites
—	object			—	education	—	—	structures
				—	funerary	—	—	objects
				—	government	—	<u>7</u>	Total
				—	health care	—	<u>5</u>	
				—	industry	—		
				—	other:	—		

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3095

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Granite, a small village near Howard County and the Patapsco Falls, is located in the Second District of Baltimore County. Old Court Road runs through the town connecting with St. Paul Road to the north. Hernwood and Bunker Hill Roads split off Old Court Road to the north and south respectively and Melrose Avenue intersects with St. Paul Road. The roads are paved, there are no sidewalks, and the buildings keep similar set backs which are close to the road. The rural village has a rolling landscape and many of the lots are surrounded with trees and shrubs.

The small African-American community of Granite is separated into two sections Bunker's Hill and Melrose Avenue (also known as the track). These two sections are entirely comprised of single-family dwellings. Within the community of Granite are buildings used both by African-Americans and their Anglo-American neighbors, such as the Hernwood School (BA-2290) at 2803 Hernwood Road.

The historic dwellings lining Old Court Road, Bunker's Hill Road, and Melrose Avenue predominantly date to the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Five rental homes are situated along Bunker Hill Road that were originally African-American dwellings. These homes were owned by Fred and Dorsey Offutt.

A simplified Gothic Revival-style dwelling is replicated throughout community. The Gothic Revival style was introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis. It was popularized through the pattern books of landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing as a reaction against Classicism. Reflective of this style are the square bell tower with steeple and pointed-arch windows. The Gothic Revival style abstracted elements from Gothic cathedrals of medieval Europe, primarily those of England and France. Although introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing, a landscape architect, popularized the Gothic Revival during the last half of the 19th century as a reaction against Classicism. Particular elements typical of the Gothic Revival style is a three bay wide, single-pile form almost always with a center cross-gable roof.

Five modest Gothic Revival-style dwellings line Bunker Hill Road and one is situated on Melrose Avenue. Each of these dwellings are wood frame, two stories in height and measure three bays wide. Several feature L-shaped footprints and others are single-pile dwellings. Each house has a center entrance and a steeply pitched center cross-gable roof. Foundations of these houses are either solid rock-faced concrete block or solid random-rubble stone. These Gothic Revival-style dwellings are clad either with asbestos shingles, vinyl German siding, wood shingles, or weatherboard. The center cross-gables on each of the dwellings contain either a pointed-arch louvered vent or window.

Two vernacular dwellings situated on Bunker Hill Road, circa 1900, do not feature any stylistic features or forms. These two identical houses are two stories high, measure two bays wide, and are capped with a side-gable roof. Each feature off-center entries and half-hipped roof porticoes covering the entry.

Several non-historic structures are sited along Bunker Hill Road and Melrose Avenue. Two dwellings constructed at the end of the 20th century, 1980 and 1992, are located on the east side of Melrose Avenue. Along Kemp Avenue are two one-story non-historic dwellings constructed in the last quarter of the 20th century. One dwelling located on Bunker Hill Road is non-historic. This 1950s building was converted from a barn to a dwelling.

Facing south towards Old Court Road, Public School # 22, also known as Hernwood School, is located at the northwest corner of the intersection with Old Court Road and Hernwood Road. This building was constructed circa 1860 and was converted to a single-family dwelling in the late 20th century. It first functioned as a one-room school for all children in Granite. It was later converted as an African American schoolhouse when an all white school house was built further east on Old Court Road. Constructed of wood frame this building is one story high and rests on a solid random-rubble stone foundation. Rising above the

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side-gable roof is one exterior-end brick chimney.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1860, 1900 ca.

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1860, 1900 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Established in the early 19th century, the village of Granite is located near the Patapsco Falls near the western boundary with Howard County in the Second District of Baltimore County. The Second District is bounded on the west by Howard and Carroll Counties, on the north by the Fourth District, on the east by the Third District, and on the south by the First District. According to Scharf in 1881, it had a total population of 3760.(1)

In 1815, the Mount Paran charge was established and provided public worship. The Granite Presbyterian Church was then organized in 1848.(2) By 1850, Granite had developed significantly at the intersection of Granite Road and Old Court Road. The community grew out of the quarrying interests of the Worthington family, whom owned a significant amount of land in the surrounding area.

Granite was given its name for the extensive granite quarrying in the area. Prior to receiving the name Granite in 1873 the town was called Waltersville. This name came from its namesake, Captain James Walters who opened the first granite quarries in 1830. By 1877, Granite was accessible by a branch that extended northward from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line as it passed near the village.(3) In 1881, the population had reached to approximately 200 inhabitants.(4) By the turn of the 20th century the thriving community had reached a population of 500 people, most of whom were affiliated in some way with the local Granite quarries. The town during the early 20th century included five churches, two private schools, two public schools, three general stores, a tavern, and a meeting hall. At one time the village included over one hundred African American residents.

In 1893, Atwood Blunt, Jr., a significant operator of the Walters Quarrying business, describes that "fully three-fourths of the stone for granite work" in Baltimore was procured from the Blunt Quarry in Granite. Many important resources in the District of Columbia also used granite from the Blunt Quarry; Library of Congress, Washington Monument to name a few. Competition in the form of cheap and easy to make building materials such as concrete block was too large for quarrying in Granite to withstand. Quarrying operations ceased in the 1930s.(5)

The town of Granite was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The National Register Nomination lists fifty-seven contributing resources and thirteen non-contributing resources with a period of significance from 1750 to 1941. The construction of Mt. Welcome, the residence of Samuel Walters, signifies the 1750 date. The latter date of 1941 is the most recent construction date of the contributing resources.(6)

The African-American community of Granite stemmed from the large numbers of slaves in the area in the early 19th century. The area is divided into two sections, Bunker's Hill and Melrose Avenue, also known as "the track." Some of the resident families included the Wilsons, Hodges, Griggs, Butlers, Buchanans, Lees, Lawrences, Bennetts, Walkers, and Porters.(7)

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One of the churches that served the African American community during the early- to mid-19th century was Marcella Chapel on Old Court Road. The church thrived until 1858 when Mount Olive was established. According to a newspaper article in 1869 (name unknown), a colored church existed in Granite at this time. In 1877, the Marcella Chapel was turned over to the African-Americans after St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed.(8)

The area between Hernwood Road and Granite Road was developed as a small community by 1877 according to the Hopkins Atlas. Names noted on the atlas include T. Putney, J.T. Isaac, T. Nelson, William Dunigan, D.E. Hamilton, J.Cockey, J.E. Mansfield, C. Platt, G. Peach. Miss R. Worthington, J.W. Offutt, and W.F. Weller. In this small area there are two stores, a church, schoolhouse, a granite quarry to the east, and Fox Rock Quarry to the northwest.(9)

Another church that Granite African American residents attended was the Cherry Hill African Union Methodist Protestant Church (AUMP). The Cherry Hill AUMP Church was constructed in 1891 on Offutt Road. The land was granted by Bazil J. Dorsey to the church trustees; Israel Bell, Lymus Young, Samuel Gaines, Alexander Cox, James Watts, Charles H. Hall, Ross Young, and Frank Armstrong. Attendance dropped in the 1960s and the last burial was Benjamin Lee in 1970.(10)

The majority of the African-American families in the Granite area came from St. Mary's County in Maryland. These families migrated with the Jesuits of St. Mary's County when Woodstock College, the Jesuit Theological Seminary was established in 1869. Woodstock College is sited along Old Court Road near the western boundary of Baltimore County. This large institutional entity provided employment for many of the resident African-Americans throughout the last half of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century.

No African-American schools were ever constructed in Granite. Beginning in 1856, children of Granite were sent to a one-room school in Randallstown called the St. Thomas Negro School. The school was located behind Union Bethel AME Church on Liberty Road.(11) By 1860, there were two schools for African-American children of the area. Granite Public School #22 was built at the intersection of Hernwood and Old Court Roads to serve both white and black children of the area.(12) School #22 does not mean this is the 22nd school within the county. All African American schools were denoted with a 2 in front of their number.

A second school, Granite Public School #3 (BA-151) was built in 1878.(13) This school was strictly for white children residing in the area. When this school was built Public School #22 became the first entirely African-American school in the community. School #22 operated until the 1950s when it closed. It was first used as a pool hall and then in 1957 Charles W. and Retagert Calp purchased the property and converted the building to a single-family dwelling.

The Bromley Atlas of 1915 denotes Granite with a small cluster of dwellings along Old Court Road between Hernwood Road and Melrose Avenue. The 1915 map shows Melrose Avenue extending from Old Court Road to New Cut Road, now called Davis Avenue. A branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad crossed east over the Patapsco River and traveled northeast towards Granite. This branch crossed over Davis and Melrose Avenues and stopped Old Court Road. The only section paved on Melrose Avenue in 1915 was the portion from the train tracks north to Old Court Road. (14)

Along Melrose Avenue there were two dwellings north of the tracks. Immediately south of the tracks were seven dwellings. According to the 1915 map Bunker's Hill located west of Melrose Avenue has not been laid. Between Melrose Avenue and Hernwood Avenue there are thirty dwellings, one store, and three churches depicted on the map. The only church given a name is the Methodist Episcopal Church located on St. Paul Avenue. Northeast of Melrose Avenue on the north side of Old Court Road is the Guildford and Waterville Granite Company as well as the residences of R.E. Offutt and W.F. Weller. To the west of Granite is the community of Woodstock. Sited close to the Patapsco River is the Woodstock Catholic College.(15)

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Many of the African-American residents that grew up in Granite in the early and mid-20th century finished school through the 8th grade. When Public School #22 closed in the 1950s children were required to attend Banneker School in Catonsville for high school. After high school only a few African-American residents completed an advanced degree.

The large employers for black residents in the area were either Woodstock College or the stone quarries. Throughout the early to mid-20th century there were no African-American businesses located in Granite. Social life during the 20th century for the African-American residents of Granite included dances and movies. Woodstock College had a large hall that was used for the community to have dances.(16) Movies were shown at the schoolhouse or at the Lyceum at the St. Alphonsus.

ENDNOTES

1. J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 830.
2. Scharf, p. 830.
3. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).
4. Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, A History of Baltimore County (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), pp. 209-210; see also J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA) p. 830.
5. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form for Granite Historic District (March 1994).
6. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form for Granite Historic District (March 1994).
7. Louis S. Diggs, Surviving in America: Histories of 7 Black Communities in Baltimore County Maryland. (Towson: Louis Diggs, 2002), p. 69.
8. Diggs, p. 54.
9. Hopkins Atlas, 1877.
10. Diggs, p. 53.
11. Diggs, p. 60.
12. Diggs, p. 60.
13. Maryland Inventory Historic Places form, Granite School # 3, BA-151.
14. Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).
15. Bromley Atlas, 1915.
16. Diggs, p. 64.

OWNERSHIP AS OF 3/24/2003

2600 Bunker Hill Road -- map 86 parcel 392
Edward Gamber Robert, tax id# 215170032
2616 Bunker Hill Road
Baltimore County Courthouse -- Liber 14921 Folio 294

2611 Bunker Hill Road -- map 86 parcel 319
Donald Louis and Brenda G. Hamilton
2619 Bunker Hill Road

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Baltimore County Courthouse -- Liber 6512 Folio 335

2616 Bunker Hill Road -- map 86 parcel 335

Robert E. Gamber

Baltimore County Courthouse -- Liber 6664 Folio 365

2619 Bunker Hill Road -- map 86 parcel 204

Donald L. and Brenda G. Hamilton

Baltimore County Courthouse -- Liber 6202 Folio 774

10700 Old Court Road -- map 86 parcel 128

Charles W. and Retagert Calp

Baltimore County Courthouse -- Liber 3256 Folio 476

2706 Melrose Avenue -- map 86 parcel 412

Paige C. McNerney

Baltimore County Courthouse -- Liber 16694 Folio 277

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3095

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 6.5 acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Ellicott City, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Granite African American Survey District is located in Granite in the Second District of Baltimore County. The properties have historically been associated with tax map 86 since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Tracerics, Inc.

date 3/24/03

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

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Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Diggs, Louis S. Surviving in America: Histories of 7 Black Communities in Baltimore County Maryland. Uptown Press, 2002.

James, Ellen L. Enclave Residents Facing Problems of Long Neglect, Housing and Survival. The Evening Sun: Baltimore, October 24, 1977.

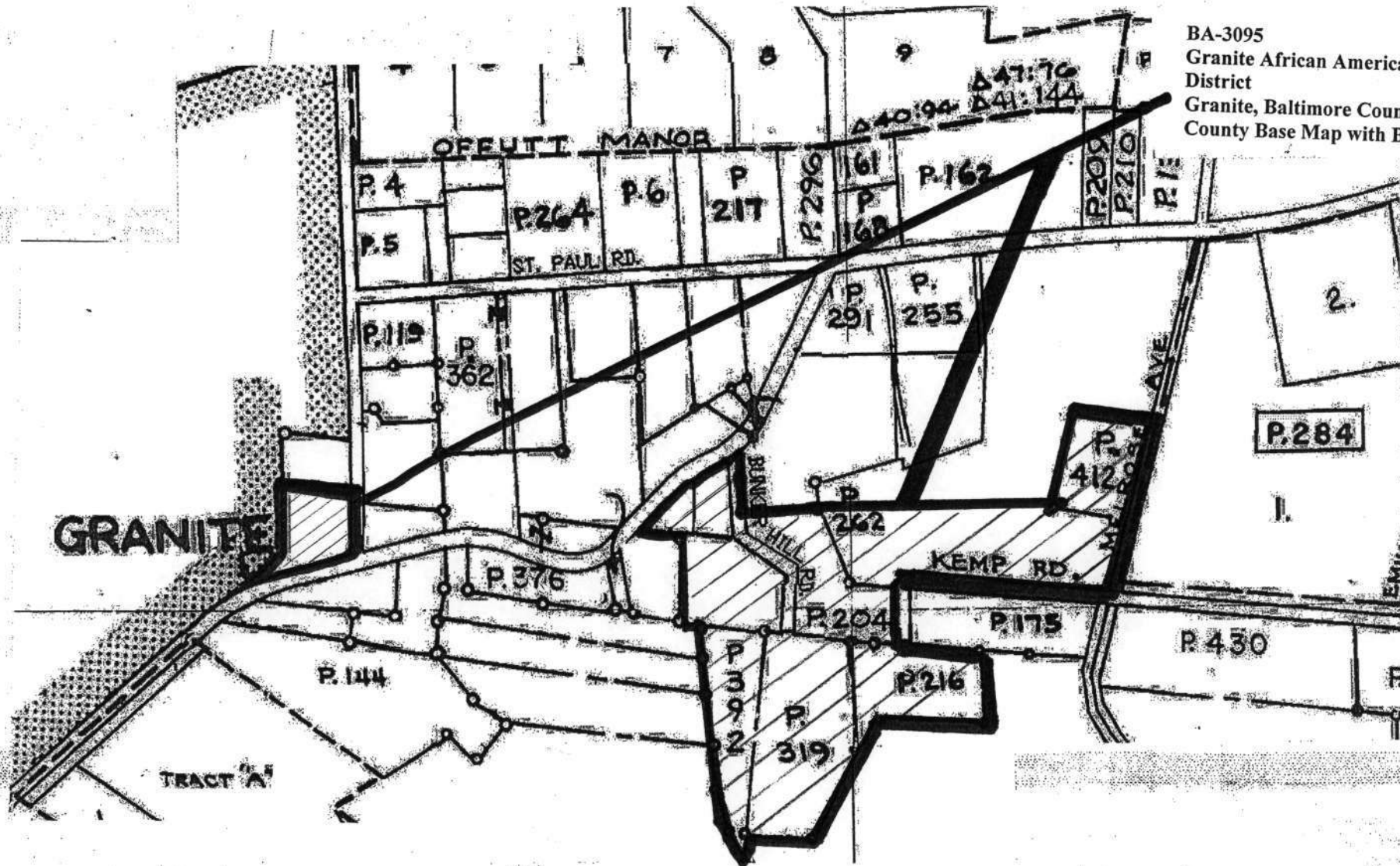
Kurtze, Peter E. National Register Nomination for Granite Historic District. March 1994.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

BA-3095
Granite African American Survey
District
Granite, Baltimore County
County Base Map with Boundaries



5662 IV NW
(FINKSBURG)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BA-3095
Granite African American Survey
District
Granite, Baltimore County
Ellicott City USGS Map

76°52'30"
39°22'30"

339000m E

340

4359000m N

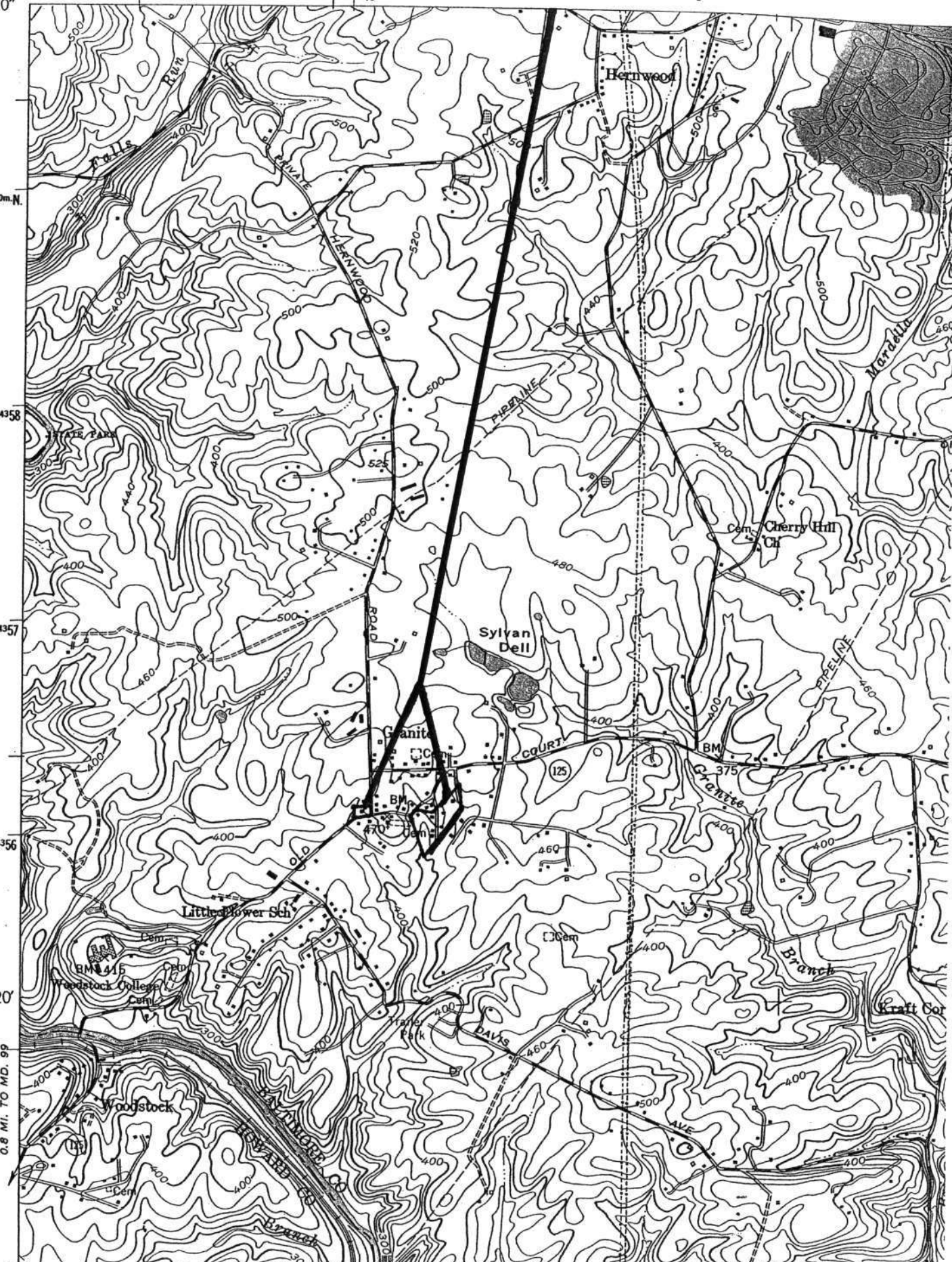
4358

4357

4356

20'

0.8 MI. TO MD. 99





BA-3095

GRANITE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

16700 Old COURT ROAD and 2703 HERMWOOD ROAD,
VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST



BA-3095

GRANITE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

10615 Old COURT ROAD, VIEW LOOKING EAST

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BA-3095

GRANITE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

BUNKER HILL ROAD, VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

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BA-3095
GRANITE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

2616 and 2600 BUNKER HILL ROAD, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

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BA-3095

GRANITE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

2706 MELROSE AVENUE, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

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